

"THE CHRONICLE" & "DIRECTORY" FOR 1874.

FOR 1874.

NOW READY.

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It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1874" has been further augmented by a CHROMO-LITHOGRAPH.

OF A

PLAN OF THE CITY OF CANTON.

THE

FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the

NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PHAN.

also of

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAG

(Designed expressly for this work)

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, and of the

THE COAST OF CHINA; also, the

NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE HONGKONG.

besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, sending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The Directory is published in Two

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fortunate remark of the Governor hinting that the absence of Mr. Ryars on certain occasions betokened a want of attention to public matters, as though any such general considerations could have anything to do with the question at issue. "Mr. Ryars's request," says Lord Carnarvon "that a longer period than a week should be allowed to elapse between the first and second reading of the Appropriation Ordinance was a reasonable one," and this, it must be clear to every one, was the only point for discussion in the whole question. In commenting upon the subject, when it came forward, we observed: "Even in Crown Colonies, the principle that the public, who pay the money, should have control over the expenditure has never been for a single moment questioned. On the contrary, we have found that the Secretary of State has more than once pointed out a want of regularity in regard to financial matters both here and in Singapore. There can be no doubt, therefore, that the desire of this non-official member to have reasonable time for studying the accounts will be at once complied with, should the matter be referred to the Colonial Office. It is the bounden duty of the local Government to satisfy the public that an opportunity has been afforded for a reasonable investigation of the estimates which the public has to pay, before they are passed, and this was the only point to which it was in accordance with the dignity of the acting Colonial Secretary to address himself." It is satisfactory to find that these views have been borne out by the event, and that the Secretary of State lays it down that the Home Government are desirous that the members of Council should have the fullest opportunity of considering and discussing not only the estimates but all questions of local interest.

A very important suggestion is also made which it is to be hoped will be acted upon. The Secretary of State suggests that great advantage might result from adopting the principle of referring the estimates to a sub-committee so soon as they are laid upon the table. Were this plan adopted, it would ensure their receiving the careful consideration of those best qualified to investigate them in the general interests, as such a committee would of course consist mainly of the non-official members of Council as they are always considered the best authority upon details of finance. It is singular that the Secretary of State should propose it in connection with the very subject in the course of discussing which the Hon. Mr. Smith expressed himself as though it was something like a heinous crime that the non-official Members of Council should meet to discuss the estimates. There would be no difficulty in carrying out this scheme which has in fact been proposed before by means of the Committee who now consider supplementary estimates, and we trust that this may be done.

It is perhaps to be regretted that H.E. the Governor did not read the despatch to the Council, and so carry out more literally the instructions from the Secretary of State to assure the Hon. Mr. Ryars of the wishes of the Home Government. It is not pleasant to announce one's own defeat, but we suspect that the Governor's conduct was not entirely in accordance with the instructions. Had it been read in Council in the ordinary way, no doubt some suggestions as to future practice would have been made which might have been useful. We trust, however, that the subject will be further considered, and that the suggestion of the Secretary of State as to referring the estimates to a sub-committee will be carried out.

The further hearing in equity of the case of the *Manila and Salford Bank v. Bank of China*, which was to have come on yesterday, was again adjourned.

The trial of Mr. Chiu-chin and his accomplices has been continued a complete success. Two changes in the programme have taken place during the week, and the performance has been witnessed by a very large audience. It is not now necessary to allude to any of the items in the programme; the public have gone and judged for themselves, and have pronounced a verdict in favour of the performers, and applause has been lavishly bestowed. We would simply remind our readers of the afternoon performance to-day.

A correspondent in Shanghai, writing on the 11th, informs us that Madame Anabella Godard was to leave again for this port by the next French mail steamer. Her first concert at the above place, which took place on the 16th, was a most successful one. She was very largely attended, there being over six hundred people in the house, notwithstanding that it was a mail day, and that there had been several public performances before. The musical portion of the programme, which included the *March Sonata* by Beethoven, was very well appreciated, and the more popular pieces elicited great enthusiasm, and were very loudly encored. The *24th March* was in criticism, the concert given by Mr. Johnson's pupils, on Grey's Quay. "It was vain to blame and useless to praise it," Mr. Ryars, who was formerly the conductor of the Italian opera at Mr. May's Theatre London, and has long been conductor of the Shanghai Amateur Philharmonic Society, gave some solos in a masterly style. Madame Godard was to give a second concert before leaving Shanghai, in which our correspondent states the Amateur Philharmonic Society were to assist. Elsewhere a farewell concert in Hongkong is announced.

OLIOB INTELLIGENCE.

BY A. W. MITCHELL, Esq.

BEFORE F. W. MITCHELL, Esq.

STREET GAMBLING.

A Malay, named Saray, charged by Chinese Constable Chan-ah-oh No. 129, with gambling in a room with three other Malays not in custody, was fined \$100, and sent to the Central Prison.

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LARCENY.

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Extracts.

SONNET.

Alas! sweet life, that thou art so fast!
 In there no breathing-space for thee and me!
 So much we have to do, and learn, and see,
 So late it seems since spring's glad moments past—
 And now the leaves change colour at the blast,
 And the dull mist comes creeping up the loam,
 With them we must part, and the glow,
 The bright light, and the sun's warm smile,
 The lovely light, and the sun's warm smile,
 The bright light, and the sun's warm smile,<
 The lovely light, and the sun's warm smile,<
 The bright light, and the sun's warm smile,

DISPERSING THE LADIES.

At Rouleau, during a Royal reception some years ago, a number of English ladies, in their anxiety to get everything in order, with such force against the soldiers who were keeping the line that the latter were forced to give way, and generally were—to use the expression of policemen—"blundered in the execution of their duty." The officer in command, observing the state of affairs, called out, "Quick!—the ladies!—they don't keep back, kiss them all!" After the first sound of the drum the ladies took to flight—If they had been French, said a Parisian journal, "they would have remained to a woman."

THE PERSIAN CAPITAL.

Tehran is situated in a large plain, twelve miles south of the Elburz Mountains, and a few miles north-west of the ruins of the ancient city of Rhages (the Rhagians of the Apocrypha), which covers a considerable extent of ground, and has supplied some of the building materials for the present city. The plain to the east and west of Tehran is populous, and many pretty villages nestle in the green defiles of the Elburz, to the north. On approaching the city, from the Isfahan road, a few domes and a great deal of verdure are visible above the walls. Tehran is about eleven miles in circumference, surrounded by a cultivated and wooded rampart and a wall of modern profile. Two-thirds of the space included within the *citrade* is still unbuild on. The old streets are narrow, and the bazaars inferior architecturally to those of Shiraz. The chief building of consequence is the Ark, or "Citadel," containing one of the palaces of the Shah, which consists of many apartments built round a central court, and where the Shah's harem is kept. The Ark was surrounded by a wall, with towers, and a dry ditch, and was entered by a drawbridge. Three sides of the wall formed part of the outer fortification, and the remaining one was within the city. Immediately upon passing the drawbridge, and the gates, there was a range of enormous workshops, enclosed within an arched bazaar, through which the road passed into the *maadras*, or square, entered by a gate which immediately faces the principal entrance of the palace, called the Dar-i-Khaan-Shah, or "Gate of the King's Palace." It leads into the different courts, gardens, lawns, and offices of the palace. A General Sketch of the History of Persia. By Clements R. Marshall.

THE ORIGIN OF THE DIAMOND.

If we can trust the paragraph just now going the rounds of the press, the "diamond in the sky" of the nursery verses must be taken not as a happy comparison, but as a genuine prophecy of scientific discovery. It is—plus ça change, plus ça change—the strength of some supposed philosophical opinions, and the power of a scientific habit of a scientific product—chips of original creation, so to speak—which the earth has picked up in the course of her travels through space; in short, that they are of meteoric origin. To the popular mind there must be something plausible in the suggestion, also, it would not have been so favourably received by so many intelligent circles, as it has been, for bits of valuable scientific information, which would to regulate their intelligent readers. Indeed, what could be more plausible than those whose knowledge of the diamond is embraced by the one word, carbon, and whose acquaintance with it is limited to some little familiarity with the appearance of the cut gem, how pure, how hard, how brilliant—what better notion could there be of the heavenly spaces? But facts are earthly and veridical, prone ever to take the shine out of splendid theories. It is true that the diamond is a puzzle even to chemists; that the mode of its formation is a mystery; that even its place in the order of Nature is a matter of doubt. Like amber, it is found among minerals. Amber is known to be a vegetable product; and the diamond is thought by some to show strong evidence of a similar origin. Its antecedents are mysterious, it must be admitted, but not wholly dark. Enough is known to make it certain that the notion of its same origin is not to be seriously entertained, unless one is prepared to accept the same time the fact—diamond, gem-bearing meteor which Sir William Thomson suggested as the importer of life to our previously lifeless planet. In no other way, barring the earthly production of the gem, can we account for the presence of plant germs in the bodies of diamond crystals. Where in extraterrestrial spaces could the diamond, now at Berlin, have picked up its inclosed organic forms, so closely resembling *polysiphonia pusillula*? Or that their diamond is a chain of green corallines, like *polysiphonia mucronata*. As surely as flies in amber prove the presence of animal life during some stage in the formation of that singular substance, the vegetable organisms found in diamonds are proof that these gem were formed, or at least, surrounded not inconsistent with the presence of vegetation, perhaps in water: a supposition that finds support not only in the fact of their occasional inclusion of organic matter, but still more in the presence of *dendroid*, such as form on animals of aquatic origin, in a diamond belonging to Professor Dorey. Crystals of gold, iron and other metals have also been found inside of diamonds; still other diamonds are superficially impressed by sand and crystals, which leads some to believe them to have been originally soft; but it is quite as probable that these foreign substances may have interfered in some way with the perfect development of the diamond crystals, forcing them to grow around or partly around the obstructions. Thus, even in its crystalline condition, the diamond is not always such a simple body as is popularly supposed. The writer of the paragraph in question speaks of it as a "pure carbon crystallized" fit product of pure matter in pure space. So it is, sometimes, but it is also stained with impurities, and is, in fact, tinged with colour, a thing of grades and degrees. And lower down in the scale are the imperfectly crystalline forms, known as hoar and carbonaceous, harder than the true gem, but cruder and possibly more useful. It would be as correct to judge the common mineral quartz solely from its appearance in what is known as Brazilian rubble, as the diamond solely from the shining brilliant. One exhibits no greater range of grades and shades and qualities than the other. Though supremely beautiful in its best state, the diamond appears to be but a earthly product, after all, subject like everything else, even theories, to earthly imperfections. There may, however, be some in Asia, say somewhere, but the evidence of it is not strong. Arizona, even, promises a better field for exploration.

Insurance.

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY AT HAMBURG.
 INCORPORATED A.D. 1808.
 Court of Administration:
 JOH. REUBENBERG, EMIL NOLTING & CO.
 LEE & CO.
 WACHSMUTH & KROG.
 F. LARSEN.
 CARL WOLFF.
 Managing Director—O. PASCHER.
 Agents at Hongkong—MELCHERS & Co.

After this date, the Brokerage allowed by this Company on the Premium on RISKS to port of Singapore, will be Ten per cent. (10%) only; on ALL OTHER INSURANCES a Brokerage of Thirty-three and One-third per cent. (33 1/3%) on the Premium will be allowed, as heretofore.

OLIPHANT & Co.,
 Agents.
 42 Hongkong, 21st January, 1874.

CHINA AND JAPAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE.

AFTER this date, a Brokerage of Thirty-three and one-third per cent. (33 1/3%) will be allowed by this Agency on risks to ports in the CHINA, JAPAN, the PHILIPPINES, and the STRAITS.

On risks to all other ports, the Brokerage will be ten per cent. (10%) only.

Wm. FUSTAU & Co.,
 Agents.
 131 Hongkong, 21st January, 1874.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE.

AFTER this date, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$50,000 on any one.

FIRST-CLASS RISK.

At Current Rates.

A RETURN of TWENTY PER CENT. (20%) will be made on the premium charged on all insurances, and Reinsurers being payable on the issue of the Policy.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
 Agents.
 333 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

OFFICE OF THE CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

NOTICE.

ON and after the present date, a rebate of Thirty-three and one-third per cent. (33 1/3%) will be allowed on all insurances granted by this Company.

By order of the Consulting Committee,
 AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.,
 General Agents.
 11805—Hongkong, 1st November, 1873.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND SPECIAL ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

Established 1809.

CAPITAL—£2,000,000.

THE Underwritten, Agents at Hongkong for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$10,000 on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same, at the following rates, subject to a discount of 20%.

Detached and semi-detached Dwelling Houses removed from Town, and their contents, 1 per cent. per annum.

Other Dwelling Houses, 1 per cent. per annum.

Use strictly as such, and their contents, 1 per cent. per annum.

Godowns, 1 per cent. per annum.

Shops, 1 per cent. per annum.

Stores, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 6 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 6 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 12 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 12 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 24 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 24 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 36 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 36 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 48 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 48 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 60 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 60 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 72 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 72 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 84 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 84 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 96 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 96 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 108 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 108 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 120 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 120 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 132 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 132 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 144 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 144 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 156 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 156 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 168 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 168 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 180 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 180 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 192 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 192 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 204 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 204 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 216 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 216 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 228 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 228 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 240 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 240 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 252 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 252 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 264 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 264 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 276 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 276 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 288 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 288 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Not exceeding 300 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Above 300 months, 1 per cent. per annum.

Insurance.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
 THE Underwritten, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant insurances as follows—
 MARINE RISKS.
 Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal ports of India, Australia, and the West.
 A Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE and ONE-THIRD per cent. will be allowed on all LOCAL RISKS.
 FIRE RISKS.
 Policies granted on First-class Buildings to an extent of \$20,000.
 A Discount of TWENTY PER CENT. (20%) upon the current local rates will be allowed on all premium charged for insurances; such discount being deducted at the time of the issue of policy.
 RUSSELL & Co.,
 Agents.
 151 Hongkong, 1st January, 1874.

YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

NOTICE.

ON and after SATURDAY, the 1st November, a Brokerage of Thirty-three and one-third per cent. (33 1/3%) will be allowed on all insurances granted by this Association.

RUSSELL & Co.,
 Agents.
 151 Hongkong, 1st January, 1874.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST, A.D. 1730.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein.

DOUGLAS LARPAIK & Co.,
 Agents.
 717 Hongkong, 30th November, 1868.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a Discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rate of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

DOUGLAS LARPAIK & Co.,
 Agents.
 1193 Hongkong, 27th June, 1872.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Underwritten are prepared to grant Policies against Fire in the above Company at current rates, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.

ROB. S. WALKER & Co.,
 Agents, Royal Insurance Company.
 1617 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST, A.D. 1730.

THE Underwritten, having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein.

DOUGLAS LARPAIK & Co.,
 Agents.
 717 Hongkong, 30th November, 1868.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Underwritten are prepared to grant Policies against Fire in the above Company at current rates, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.

ROB. S. WALKER & Co.,
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 1617 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

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